

## REPUBLIC DAY IN TURKEY

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2010*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the citizens of Turkey and Turkish Americans on the 87th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923. This is one of the most important dates in Turkey's history. And it is equally meaningful to the United States as it formed the cornerstone which enabled Turkey to become a strategic partner and close NATO ally.

After the 600 year old Ottoman Empire disintegrated, Mustafa Kemal, also known as the George Washington of Turkey, led a three year war of independence. This culminated with the newly founded parliament formally abolishing the Sultanate, on November 1, 1922, thus ending 723 years of Ottoman rule. The Treaty of Lausanne of July 24, 1923, led to the international recognition of the sovereignty of the newly established "Republic of Turkey" as the successor state of the Ottoman Empire.

Following considerable debate and discussion, the Turkish Parliament proclaimed the Republic on the evening of October 29, 1923. Fifteen minutes after the Parliamentary proclamation, Mustafa Kemal (later known as Atatürk), was elected President of the Republic. This historic decision was marked by a 101 gun salute. The significance of the event was also noted by Atatürk, who stated that, "the proclamation of the Republic was enthusiastically received by the nation. This enthusiasm was manifested everywhere by brilliant demonstrations."

Turkey's economy has grown at an impressive rate, and the country is now a member of the G-20, a European Union candidate, and an active and important player in various international organizations. Turkey and the U.S. have been close friends, partners and allies for many decades. However, the Turkish-American relationship goes beyond a simple bilateral friendship. Rather it has become a strategic partnership based on shared values, interests and ideals. U.S.-Turkish cooperation extends across a wide range of issues, including combating terrorism, promoting economic trade and energy security, fostering peace and stability in Afghanistan and Iraq, and advancing principles of democracy and freedom throughout the globe.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Turkish Americans and the Turkish public on this important occasion.

## EDITH SAVAGE-JENNINGS

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2010*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Edith Savage-Jennings, a paragon of the Civil Rights Movement whose accomplishments on behalf of the movement are surpassed only by her humility about them. "It was just the work that was called for," she has said. As I understand, she is currently working on a book to be entitled "Behind Closed

Doors," she said, because that is where the most important work on any movement is done.

Let me open the door for you, just a little, so you will come to know and appreciate this paragon of the Civil Rights Movement as I do. First, she started early—when she was 9. She would tell her mother she was going to the library, but instead she would go to the Statehouse in Trenton and watch the proceedings of the New Jersey Assembly from the balcony. Despite getting in trouble for that fib, she persisted in her efforts to learn and to lead.

When she was 13, movie theaters in Trenton were still segregated. Black moviegoers—like Edith—were required to sit in the balcony. But she went to the theater with several friends, including future Mayor of New York, David Dinkins, and they sat downstairs. When asked to move to the balcony, they refused. And she's been making history quietly, but forcefully, ever since.

Whatever road the civil rights struggle took her down, she did her best. In 1963, she was one of six women asked by President Kennedy and Attorney General Robert Kennedy to ferret out particular areas of unrest in the struggle to desegregate schools in Mississippi. She became one of the "Wednesdays Women," who travelled in interracial teams to Mississippi in 1964 to advance the cause of desegregation through what you might call white-glove diplomacy. Accompanied by Helen Meyner, wife of New Jersey Governor Bob Meyner, they landed in Mississippi, only to be greeted by white men spitting on the floor in front of them. "They'd never seen a black woman and a white woman travelling together," she said.

They continued on. On Wednesdays, they would bring supplies to rural communities on the front lines of the struggle to end segregation. On Thursdays, dressed in heels, pearls and white gloves, they would meet white and black women for tea and cookies to discuss peaceful ways to desegregate the elementary schools and to resolve the white women's suspicions about the Civil Rights Movement. On this visit, as Mrs. Meyner introduced herself, she shook everyone's hand. In another quiet act of rebellion, Edith took off her white glove, and the women wouldn't shake her hand. But the schools were desegregated.

Over the years, she has been praised and followed for her leadership skills and prowess. She was introduced to Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1957 at a rally in Trenton because, the minister at Shiloh Baptist Church said at the time, she's "a great fundraiser." She became a lifelong friend of the Kings. In 1964, she accompanied Fannie Lou Hamer onto the floor of the Democratic National Convention, where she delivered her famous "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired" speech. She has visited the White House under five different Presidents. She was close friends with Rosa Parks, and brought her and many other civil rights leaders to Trenton. She's been a member of the NAACP for life, and won more than 80 awards for her selfless, tireless work. In 2005, her name was added to the Wall of Tolerance in Montgomery, Alabama, to honor her 50 years of civil rights service. Last year, she was inducted into the National Civil Rights Museum, located at the hotel in Memphis where King was assassinated, and the National Park Service Archives for Black Women's History in Washington DC.

But her humility is one of her most endearing qualities. When President Kennedy called her to action in 1963, she didn't believe it was him. So he put his brother Bobby on the phone and said "Bobby, say hello to Mrs. Savage so she'll know I'm the President." When she was inducted into the National Civil Rights Museum, among other personal items she donated was a pair of red loafers she had worn in 1968 while demonstrating in the rain and mud at the Poor People's Campaign commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. The shoes still bore the mud from that day. "I put them in a box [and] never pulled them out," she said "but I saved them because to me they were part of a historical situation."

I am proud to say Edith Savage-Jennings has been a resident of Trenton since the age of 2. At the mass in her honor after her induction into the National Civil Rights Museum she said "I want people to know that no one does this alone." Even so, the particular manner, the quiet resoluteness, and the tide of contributions of some simply stand out. Edith Savage-Jennings is one such person.

## TRIBUTE TO DEAN BRILEY

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 18, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Dean Briley, a World War II Navy veteran from Boone, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Dean Briley was recognized on Tuesday, October 19. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: DEAN BRILEY

(By Greg Eckstrom)

Military service for the Briley family was a family affair.

Dean Briley, a Boone County native, along with his three brothers, all found themselves serving their country overseas during WWII, although each stationed in different areas.

For Briley, with the war already raging, he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 as a petty officer third class. He was sworn-in in Des Moines and was sent to Boot Camp at Great Lakes, Ill., near Chicago. Boot camp in the winter in the Midwest was, to say the least, a bit chilly.

"It was cold," Briley said flatly. "We didn't have any hot water. We were in a new barracks, and they hadn't gotten hot water to it yet, so we shaved and everything in cold water."

Following boot camp, Briley and his wife were sent to Arlington, Va., where they didn't have a place to stay, but had jobs.

"The first place I went to was in Washington D.C. at the Bureau of Naval Personnel, supervising naval and civilian personnel," Briley said. "When we went, they didn't have a place for us, so we had to find our own lodging. I guess the first couple of nights we stayed in the Red Cross place until we found a place to live. We were figuring officers' longevity pay. I was there a year and a half. My wife was with me then. She worked in the Navy Department. In Arlington, same place I did. We lived in Washington, D.C."